



Mummy Cat

Marcus Ewert , Lisa Brown (Illustrator)

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*Deep within this maze of stone,
a creature wakes up, all alone . . .*

Mummy Cat prowls his pyramid home, longing for his beloved owner. As he roams the tomb, lavish murals above his head display scenes of the cat with his young Egyptian queen, creating a story-within-a-story about the events of centuries past. Hidden hieroglyphs deepen the tale and are explained in an informative author's note.

Marcus Ewert and Lisa Brown's smart, beautiful book is a marvel of sophisticated simplicity, infinitely engaging to examine in detail, and complete with a sweetly surprising plot twist sure to delight young cat-lovers and budding Egyptologists alike.

Mummy Cat Details

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Author : Marcus Ewert , Lisa Brown (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Mummy Cat for online ebook

Donna Mork says

Beautiful story about a cat who was the pet of the queen of Egypt long ago. He wakes up and looks for her inside their tomb. He is a mummy cat and is lonely for his friend. The murals tell the story of his life. A bittersweet tale.

Cathy Mealey says

A loyal and loving feline searches for his devoted owner, a young Egyptian queen in Marcus Ewert and Lisa Brown's clever picture book MUMMY CAT. The catch? He's just woken from a hundred year's sleep after having been mummified and entombed in a beautifully decorated pyramid.

For young readers, the tale works on the simplest level as the pet seeks to reunite with his owner. The determined, inquisitive cat is appealing and adorable despite his elaborate linen wrappings. The tomb is bright and colorful, filled with interesting artifacts, a swirling moth, and cute little mice. Even a few spiders and cobwebs are so delightfully depicted that timid listeners will have nothing to fear.

As he wanders through the pyramid, the cat gazes fondly at painted murals showing his past life with the queen, Hapshupset. Indeed, the murals tell a more complex story within the story about a jealous, scheming sibling that complicated the young queen's life. This aspect of the book will hold enormous appeal for older readers. Looking beyond the captivating mural images, we slowly decode the devious actions of Hapshupset's sister and her evil lion-monkey.

An author's note explains mummies, cats, queens and hieroglyphics for readers who want to know more, and seventeen hieroglyphs hidden within the illustrations are spelled out in more detail.

Ewert's rhyming text is short yet descriptive, moving the story forward at a steady pace. Deep within this maze of stone, a creature wakes up, all alone . . . Spanning the full scope of this once-a-century event, Ewert leads us from the sun setting over hot desert sands into the tomb, through the night, and closing as the sun is beginning to rise. The spare but rich narrative leaves plenty of opportunity for Brown's engaging, creative illustrations to flourish and add poignant, tender touches.

Just as Egyptian priests tucked magical amulets and symbolic treasures into a mummy's linens, Ewert and Brown have slipped countless sweet delights into the pages of MUMMY CAT. Turn the pages slowly and savor them one by one. I'm certain you will also be en-wrap-tured by its many charms!

Dov Zeller says

This is a book that I have some mixed feelings about, but it's beautiful and fun *and* addresses friendship, loss, isolation and death in a way that is very gentle. That is a lot for one book to do. It takes place in a pyramid, a theme that is perhaps overdone and over simplified in kids books, but still rich with history and mythology. It addresses privilege/birthright, the violence that can be encountered in royal families, and sibling rivalry in ways that are a bit more oblique. My just-turned-six year old neighbor is not picking up on those last

elements at this point and that is fine. She loves the evocative language and rhymes. "The winds hiss over the the desert sand./The moon shines down on empty land..." She adores the romantic friendship. To quote her, "I'm really into this book." She is now making her own hieroglyphic dictionary of sorts.

Alyssa (Books Take You Places) says

Sweet yet morbid. I loved it.

Juliana Lee says

Mummy Cat wakes up every hundred years looking for his mistress, the girl queen, Hat-shup-set. He wanders the old, dark, hall of the tomb. He looks upon the murals painted for the girl queen and sees that he is in every one. He remembers the details of each event. He recalls how the scorpion stung both he and her, striking them both dead. At the end of the hall, he goes through a door into another room. Here he investigates the artifacts of his past. He sees the toys and lovely things that had belonged to his girl queen. And then he approaches her coffin, painted and inlaid with gold. He wonders if she will ever return. He lays down to wait for her as he has done for three thousand years. But this night is different, this night he is rejoined with her once more.

<http://julianaleewriter.com/books-ali...>

Dolly says

With a short, rhyming narrative and illustrations created using "*ink, gouache, and watercolor on paper with digital collage*," this is a story about a love between a woman and her cat that endures for millennia.

The story depicts many aspects of ancient Egyptian life and culture and features a female pharaoh whose name is Hatshupset (which apparently rhymes more easily than Hatshepsut, the actual name of the historical figure upon which the story is based).

Strangely enough, I didn't catch the dramatic tale of jealousy, hatred, and assassination woven throughout the illustrations the first time I read the book. I was pretty tired, but I think I was just focused on the rhymes and the interactions between the pharaoh and her cat.

I also didn't realize that the hieroglyphs used were authentic and help to tell the story of greed, betrayal, and murder until I read the author's notes at the end of the book. The notes include additional information about Egyptian mummies, the cats they revered, Hatshepsut, and a glossary of hieroglyphs used.

What this tells me is that younger children may also overlook some of the grittier parts of the story, focusing instead on the loving relationship between Hatshupset and her cat as well as the fun, lyrical rhymes that offer vivid, often onomatopoeic, descriptions of the cat's journey to find his queen.

Overall, it's an engaging story and the book is one that can be read several times, gleaning more information about the details of the saga with the clues given within the illustrations. I certainly needed another reading to capture the nuances of the drama. It helps that I was more awake the second time!

Damian Dubois says

How can you not a) fall in love with a Mummy Cat and b) not award this five stars? Gorgeous little book reminding us that love can be eternal. Watch out Pandora, you're coming with me into the afterlife ;)

Miranda says

MY HEART.

Dashka says

Gorgeous illustrations, inventive rhymes, and a relationship between girl and cat that endures for millenia -- what more could you ask for? How about a hidden murder mystery told in hieroglyphs and a primer on ancient Egypt? This is a picture book that nourishes the heart, the ear, the eye, and the mind with separate and delectable treats.

Emily Scheinman says

Get ready to fall in love with Mummy Cat! This picture book collaboration between Marcus Ewert and Lisa Brown is a delight to read. My family and I poured over the illustrations and it also makes such a wonderful read aloud!

Erin says

The cutest mummy cat ever rises from the dead to reminisce about days gone by and await for his mummified queen to also return from the dead. Easy read aloud rhyming text adds to the cheerful atmosphere. While my 30 month old was entertained, by the illustrations and rhymes, this is a book about death, and could spark some uncomfortable discussion in older readers if you're not prepared.

Back matter goes into a little more detail about relevant Egyptian history and mummification.

Death, burial, and preservation.

Mary Lee says

Sweet and sad story of a mummy cat missing his girl (an Egyptian princess).

Kaethe says

Picked out for CAT in the title and illustrations by Lisa Brown, whose work I usually like. Surprising poignant and not at all like Skippyjon Jones. There is clearly research, and good endnotes.

Library copy

Heather says

10 stars!!!!

Rachel says

The FEELS...
